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STAR!

COOL

PHOTO  
CONTEST

# KIDS

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TALK TO  
ANIMALS

DARE TO EXPLORE

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Animals**  
ISSUE!



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AUGUST 2009

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# WILL ANYONE REMEMBER WHO THE ROTTEN EGG WAS?

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# Inside



**SPECIAL  
AWESOME  
ANIMALS  
ISSUE!**

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## Just for KIDS online!

Go online to play jigsaw puzzle games, watch cartoons, and comment on the "Green Scene" and "DogEared" book blogs. [kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)



## On the Cover

Bottlenose dolphins always look like they're smiling.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH © STUART WESTMORLAND / ABE FOTOSTOCK

## HOW BIG IS YOUR BACKYARD?

IT'S BIGGER THAN YOU THINK.



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# Check out these 9 outrageous facts.

The air  
around a  
**lightning  
strike**  
is five times  
**hotter**  
than the sun.

**ALL THE  
MINED GOLD  
IN THE WORLD  
CAN FILL TWO  
OLYMPIC-SIZE  
SWIMMING POOLS.**

**The average dream lasts about 20 minutes.**

**A BRITISH  
CANDY-  
MAKER**

ONCE  
CREATED A  
NINE-  
AND-A-HALF-  
FOOT-TALL  
BILLBOARD

**MADE ENTIRELY OF  
CHOCOLATE.**

**IF THE LONGEST  
BLUE  
WHALE  
COULD STAND ON ITS  
TAIL,  
IT WOULD BE AS  
TALL  
AS A TEN-STORY BUILDING.**



**A group  
of jellyfish  
is called a  
smack.**

**Americans eat seven billion hot dogs between Memorial Day and Labor Day.**

**Texas**  
is the only state  
that allows residents to

**vote**  
from space.

**THE LONGEST RAW EGG TOSS WAS 107 YARDS—LONGER THAN A SOCCER FIELD.**

A cartoon illustration of a smiling hot dog character. The hot dog is yellow with a red chili sauce and yellow mustard. It has large, round, green sunglasses and is giving a thumbs up with its right hand. It has two small legs and is standing on a pink background.



NOT SO TALL TALES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'SPY KIDS'

# SHORTS

THE ADVENTURES OF THE WISHING ROCK

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CASTING BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, CARL THEEL  
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STORIES FROM  
THE FILES OF

# Guinness World Records

Go online for more information about Guinness World Records! [kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos)

## STRETCHY SKIN

Garry "Stretch" Turner holds the record for the stretchiest skin. Besides stretching out his cheeks, Turner can pull skin from his neck over his mouth, and catch a half-size basketball in the stretched-out skin from his stomach. Turner was born with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a rare condition that makes his body's collagen—sort of like a glue that holds skin cells together—defective, resulting in stretchy skin. But Turner doesn't see his condition as a disease. He sees it more like a talent that he loves to show off.



## GIGANTIC DUCK



A duck in the water isn't surprising—unless it's 82 feet tall. *Canard de Bain* (loosely, "Rubber Duck" in French) is the largest plastic duck. Created by artist Florentijn Hofman, it was one of 30 art installations along the Loire River in France. Tourists could view the art, but the duck wasn't always there. If the wind blew more than 37 miles an hour, a computer instructed the duck to deflate!

## NO JACKET REQUIRED

No one blames you for wanting a PlayStation Portable (PSP). But craving a \$35,000 PSP jacket might be a bit much. The most expensive PSP cover commercially available is made with a pound of solid gold and covered in black and yellow diamonds. Sounds cool. But you might have to spend even more money—on a security guard to protect it!



# sports funnies

uh-oh!



WHAT IS  
THIS CREATURE  
DOING IN MY  
BACKYARD?

Golfer Rory Sabbatini of South Africa shoos off an uninvited kangaroo during the 2007 Australian PGA Championship.



IF I KEEP  
SMILING, MAYBE  
NO ONE WILL  
REALIZE I'M  
STUCK.

Australia's Daria Joura competes in vault during a 2007 artistic gymnastics tournament in Beijing, China.

7

## Evil Prowls the Cliffs of Dover



*An ancient prophecy.*

*A buried treasure.*

*Two orphans lie at  
the heart of a quest  
to save the world.*

Visit

**DelphiKeep.com**

and get to know the  
characters in the book.



Illustrations © 2009 by Antonio Javier Caparo



**Bet you  
didn't  
know**

BY ERIN WHITMER

# **7** wacky facts about science

**1** Some  
clouds  
are more than  
10 miles  
tall.

**2** Humans  
and slugs  
share more than  
half of their genes.

**3** Astronomers  
have discovered a  
star  
that is made of  
a 10-billion-trillion-trillion-  
carat diamond.

**4** A storm  
on Neptune was  
as wide as the entire  
Earth.

**5** There are  
volcanoes  
inside  
glaciers  
in Iceland.

**6** A  
battery  
can be made out  
of a  
potato.

**7** Chewing  
gum  
can make your  
heart beat  
faster.







NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## PROMOTION

# INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2009 FOR KIDS

Grab your camera! Take a photograph of something in your world that fits one or more of these four categories: humor, animals, scenery, or people. The First Place Winner in each category will go on to compete against other First Place Winners from other National Geographic photography contests being held internationally. The best photo will win the photographer a Grand Prize trip to Washington, D.C.

**You  
could win  
a trip to  
Washington,  
D.C.!**



## CONTEST PRIZES

**Entries must be postmarked by  
November 2, 2009, so enter today!**

Go online for official rules and entry requirements.  
**kids.nationalgeographic.com/contests/Photos**

- 3** Four First Place Winners (one for each category) will win a National Geographic Kids Pet Cam, a copy of the National Geographic Kids Almanac 2010, a National Geographic 1,000-piece puzzle, and entry into the Worldwide National Geographic Society International Photography Contest for Kids for a chance to win the Grand Prize trip. The Grand Prize Winner (selected from First Place Winners around the world) will win a five-day, four-night trip to Washington, D.C., plus a special tour of National Geographic Society headquarters.
- 3** Four Second Place Winners (one for each category) will win a National Geographic Kids Ant Farm Gel Colony, a copy of the National Geographic Kids Almanac 2010, and a National Geographic 1,000-piece puzzle.

**PURCHASE HERE:** [A PURCHASE HERE](#)

Official Rules go to [kids.nationalgeographic.com/contests\\_Photos](#). Photos from all countries (excluding Puerto Rico) are eligible. Entries must be submitted by November 10, 2010, and received by November 17, 2010. All entries will be judged on their own merits.

The contest has four categories: Humors, Animals, Scenery, and People. The top three winners in each category will receive \$1,000. National Geographic Kids Awards will also be given to the winners in each category. The winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

Photography Contest for Kids, in which we invite children to share their views on the world around them. Society ball contests being launched and the winners of the World's Most Amazing Photo Contest. See [nationalgeographic.com/lpc](#).

Farm Lett Country is a play of the National Geographic Kids Award. The winners of the contest will be selected by a panel of judges. The winners will receive \$1,000. National Geographic Kids Awards will also be given to the winners in each category. The winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

BLOW DODS OF WINNING DEPOT IN NUMBER ONE. The winners of the contest will be selected by a panel of judges. The winners will receive \$1,000. National Geographic Kids Awards will also be given to the winners in each category. The winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

# green scene

## OCEAN ALERT!

BY ENRIC SALA, MARINE ECOLOGIST,  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FELLOW



It may seem as if the world's oceans are so vast that nothing could hurt them. Unfortunately, that's not true. The oceans suffer from people dumping stuff that they don't want (pollution) and taking too much from the ocean that they do want (overfishing). You can help turn this problem around.

You probably already know how to help fight pollution: Participate in stream, river, and beach cleanups; don't litter; and don't dump things into storm drains. But you may not realize that too many fish—including the bluefin tunas at left—are taken from the sea. Some overfished species are disappearing—such as sharks.

People kill 100 million sharks every year. The desire for shark fin soup is one big reason so many sharks die. These fish are caught, their fins cut off to be sold, and the rest of their bodies are thrown back into the sea.

Many fish are slow growing, and live decades or even centuries. Orange roughies can live to be more than 100 years old. Rockfish can live to be 200! And Chilean seabass live 40 years. When there aren't enough of these slow-growing fish, it threatens the species because the fish often are taken from the sea before they are old enough to reproduce. These species could disappear.

Use the pocket guide below to help protect the ocean's creatures.

TO USE YOUR POCKET GUIDE, CUT ALONG THE DOTTED WHITE LINE AND FOLD ON THE BLACK LINES LIKE AN ACCORDION.

## BE AN OCEAN HERO!

You can be part of the solution if you choose carefully what fish to eat. Some are OK to eat; others you should avoid because they're overfished or caught in ways that harm the ocean. Cut out this take-along guide and ask your parents to consult it when they buy fish at the market or order at a restaurant. Ask the grocer or chef where and how the fish was caught. Saving marine life is hard, but if everyone helps, it will make a difference.

### BEST CHOICES

abalone (farmed)  
barramundi (U.S.)  
catfish (U.S.)  
caviar/sturgeon (farmed)  
char, Arctic (farmed)  
clams (farmed)  
clams, softshell  
crab, Dungeness  
crab, stone  
crawfish (U.S.)  
halibut, Pacific  
lobster, spiny  
(Australia, Baja, U.S.)  
mackerel, Atlantic  
mahimahi (U.S. troll)  
mullet (U.S.)  
mussels (farmed)  
oysters (farmed)  
pollock, Alaska  
sablefish/black cod (Alaska, Canada)

salmon (Alaska wild)  
salmon, canned  
pink/sockeye  
sardines (U.S.)  
scallops, bay (farmed)  
shrimp, pink (Oregon)  
shrimp (U.S. farmed)  
spot prawn (Canada)  
squid, longfin (U.S.)  
striped bass (farmed)  
tilapia (U.S.)  
trout, rainbow (farmed)  
tuna, albacore (Canada, U.S.)  
tuna, yellowfin (U.S. troll)

### WORST CHOICES

caviar/sturgeon (imported wild)  
Chilean seabass  
cod, Atlantic  
crab, king (imported)  
crawfish (China)  
flounder/sole (Atlantic)  
grouper  
haddock (trawl)  
halibut, Atlantic  
mahimahi (imported longline)  
monkfish  
orange roughy  
rockfish, Pacific (trawl)  
salmon (farmed or Atlantic)  
shark

shrimp/prawns (imported)  
skate  
snapper (red or imported)  
swordfish (imported)  
tilapia (Asia)  
tuna, bigeye (longline)  
tuna, bluefin  
tuna, yellowfin (imported longline)

### DEFINITIONS

**FARMED:** fish raised commercially in enclosures

**LONGLINE:** fishing with a long line (up to 50 miles long) that has short lines attached with baited hooks

**TROLL:** to fish with lines towed by a boat

**TRAWL:** to fish with a cone-shaped net dragged behind a boat



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ADAPTED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND "POCKET SEAFOOD SELECTION"

# See the Bigger Picture

**A World of Amazing Connections**



Biodiversity is the huge variety and complexity of life on Earth. All the different plants and animals on the planet, including us, are connected in amazing ways. This means that even a small animal has a big part to play in keeping nature in balance—that's the bigger picture.

Right now, biodiversity is being threatened and species lost. But we can preserve biodiversity if we all act wisely. There's still time for us to save endangered plants and animals if we work together to protect the places where they live. We just have to help everyone see the bigger picture.

## Joel Sartore Sees the Bigger Picture with his Camera

He's a fantastic National Geographic photographer who travels the world photographing endangered species. Joel's photos help people to understand the problem and to care about protecting biodiversity.



**Follow the connections from the species to you.**



Honeybees are disappearing



Forests are being cut down



Amphibians are endangered



Plants we eat don't get pollinated



Fewer trees to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the air



Too many mosquitoes



Many fruits, nuts, and vegetables can't grow



Less clean air



Mosquitoes carry disease

LESS FOOD FOR PEOPLE

HARDER FOR PEOPLE TO BREATHE

PEOPLE GET SICK

## YOU CAN HELP & WIN!

Grab your camera and enter our photo contest for a chance to win a trip to the home of National Geographic in Washington, D.C. Take a photo of what biodiversity means to you, submit your shot, and learn more at

[www.seethebiggerpicture.org](http://www.seethebiggerpicture.org)

## Airbus Sees the Bigger Picture in the Sky

Airbus is a company that is fully engaged in continuous improvement of its processes to better protect the environment. They design and build aircraft that are quieter, greener, and cleaner. Together Airbus and National Geographic support the UN backed project, *The Green Wave*, in the world's most far-reaching biodiversity program for families and kids.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 31, 2009. TO ENTER, VISIT [www.seethebiggerpicture.org](http://www.seethebiggerpicture.org). OPEN TO LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES (INCLUDING Puerto Rico) AND CANADA (INCLUDING Quebec) ages 18 to 74 as of August 31, 2009. Consensus of National Geographic Society, Airline and related parties are required. Entries must be submitted by August 31, 2009, and received by September 4, 2009. Limit one entry per person. To enter, take a photograph of what biodiversity means to you. Entry restrictions apply to National Geographic Society. Visit [www.seethebiggerpicture.org](http://www.seethebiggerpicture.org) for full rules. Winner and their parent or legal guardian. CANNOT BE CASHED IN. PRIZES MUST BE USED BY SEPTEMBER 31, 2009. AIRBUS AND NATURE PROTECTED BY LAW. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received and size of prize pool.

# Amazing Animals

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? MY FRIDGE IS FULL.



A chipmunk can store about a teaspoon's worth of seeds or nuts in each cheek pouch.

## CHIPMUNK GOES NUTS

### DeMotte, Indiana

When Hope Wideup spotted a chipmunk scurrying off with her gardening glove, she later found it under her car's hood. So when her car wouldn't start a few weeks later, she figured the chipmunk was to blame. Only this time it wasn't a glove. The chipmunk had hidden his winter hoard of black walnuts—hundreds of them—under the hood.

It's not so weird for a chipmunk to store lots of nuts and seeds in a single place. During the winter, they take frequent naps lasting several days, called torpor states. "And they're going to be looking for a snack when they wake up," says wildlife expert Judy Loven. But Loven thinks this chipmunk is unique. Almost all the cases of nuts hidden in cars involve sneaky tree squirrels.

"Hopefully this chipmunk doesn't give his friends any ideas," she says.

—Johnna Rizzo





# PUPPIES SAVE LOST KID

## Virgilina, Virginia

Jaylynn Thorpe's family was terrified when the 3-year-old wandered off into the woods on a frigid 17°F night. Thankfully, Bootsy and Dipstick the puppies wandered off with him—and probably saved his life.

While rescue workers searched for Jaylynn with scent-sniffing dogs and a heat-seeking helicopter, the puppies nestled around the shivering boy. They pressed against him all night and kept him warm—and alive. "They treated him like another puppy in their litter," says veterinarian Emily Kinnaid. "They snuggled to keep warm."

Twenty hours later, rescuers were nearby. But a scared Jaylynn hid beneath a pile of leaves. Once again, the puppies played the heroes, barking to alert the rescue team. Jaylynn soon was reunited with his family, cold and hungry but unhurt. "The puppies were very important to his survival," says fire chief Chad Loftis.

—Johnna Rizzo



JAYLYNN WITH HIS PUPPY PALS



BOOTSY (LEFT) AND DIPSTICK

# TORTOISE LUVS 2 SK8

## Jerusalem, Israel

No one expects tortoises to be speed demons. But when Arava the African spurred tortoise got a "skateboard" for her back legs, she became speedier than most.

Arava had arrived at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo unable to move her hind legs. "She wouldn't eat and tucked her head inside her shell," says veterinarian Nili Avni-Magen. "She seemed so sad." The medical staff couldn't find a reason for the paralysis, but they had a solution: wheels!

Arava could still use her front legs, so a metalworker built a two-wheeled metal platform with straps to go around Arava's shell. When Arava first tried out her "skateboard," she took a few steps with her front legs and started rolling. Now she zips around her enclosure on her board, "outrunning" the other tortoises. Arava has a long life to look forward to—unless she tries to ollie out of a ramp.

—Marinell James

HEY, WHERE ARE THE BRAKES ON THIS THING?



Arava is 11 years old. Tortoises like her can live to be 70 years old.



Behind the  
Scenes  
of the  
New Movie

# Harry Potter



## Harry Potter by the numbers

**4,169**

total number of pages in  
the seven *HP* hardcover  
books sold in the U.S.

**\$4.5 billion**

approximate amount of  
money that *HP* movies have  
made worldwide

**\$15 billion**

estimated amount the *HP* brand—  
including DVD sales, video games, toys,  
and clothing—has made worldwide

**400 million**

number of *HP* books  
sold worldwide

WE KNOW YOU LOVE THE HARRY POTTER MOVIES, BUT SINCE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE WILL BE RATED PG-13, MAKE SURE TO GET YOUR PARENTS' PERMISSION BEFORE YOU START.

# er and the Half-Blood Prince

BY SARAH WASSNER FLYNN

With new spells, new friendships, and new mysterious secrets, the latest *Harry Potter* movie is more intense than ever. Based on the sixth book in the series by J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* follows our favorite wizard on a quest to take down evil Lord Voldemort by unraveling the villain's puzzling past. NG KIDS went behind the scenes of this new film to reveal the magic behind the movie.

## SUPERSIZE SPIDER

Poor Aragog! When Hagrid's eight-legged pal passes away, he's laid to rest in a huge pit. Well, more like tossed to rest: "The script called for Aragog to be thrown into a deep hole," says creature effects supervisor Nick Dudman. "We decided to use a real model instead of computer graphics." Dudman's crew created the colossal critter with a steel skeleton covered by the same material used to make crash-test dummies. The result? A spider nearly as large as a polar bear that was so heavy it had to be carried by a crane.

AS RON LOOKS ON, HERMIONE TELLS HARRY THAT IT'S TIME TO LEAVE TO START SEARCHING FOR VOLDEMORT'S HORCRUX, WHICH CONTAINS PART OF THE VILLAIN'S SOUL.

## ACTOR PROFILES

### DANIEL RADCLIFFE (HARRY POTTER)

AGE: 20

QUALITIES HE SHARES WITH HARRY: Loyalty, curiosity, and getting into trouble

FAVORITE BREAKFAST: Toast with chocolate spread

MAGICAL ABILITY HE'D LIKE TO HAVE: Invisibility

FAVORITE TV SHOW: *The Simpsons*

FAVORITE HP CHARACTER: Hagrid



### EMMA WATSON (HERMIONE GRANGER)

AGE: 19

IDEAL PLACE TO APPARATE: France, where she lived till she was 5

FAVORITE DRINK: Orange juice mixed with lemonade

WHOSE MEMORIES SHE MIGHT EXPLORE IN A PENSIEVE: Johnny Depp's (her favorite actor)

REAL-LIFE HP MOMENT: Attending an elementary school called the Dragon School

NUMBER OF TIMES SHE AUDITIONED TO PLAY HERMIONE: 8



## ACTOR PROFILES

### RUPERT GRINT (RON WEASLEY)

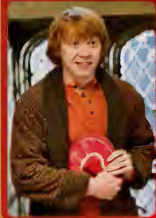
AGE: 23

CLASS HE'D TAKE AT HOGWARTS: Transfiguration

LEAST FAVORITE FOOD: Celery  
HP CREATURE YOU'D THINK HE'D FEAR BUT DOESN'T: Aragog—"Even though I'm superscared of spiders."

ITEM HE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: His pickup truck

IDEAL PLACE TO APPARE: Any golf course, anytime



### JESSIE CAVE (LAVENDER BROWN)

AGE: 22

CLASS SHE'D TAKE AT HOGWARTS: Flying

FAVORITE FOOD: Coffee ice cream

IDEAL PLACE TO APPARE: Top of Peak Tower in Hong Kong, China

DREAM VACATION SPOT: Fiji

THE "UNBREAKABLE VOW" SHE LIVES BY: To be noble and kind



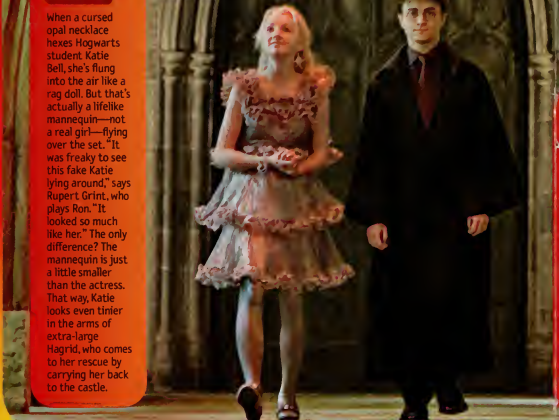
### HAIR-WOLF

There may not be any goats in *Holf-Blood Prince*, but there's plenty of goat hair. Just ask Dave Legeno, who plays werewolf Fennir Greyback. Makeup artists spent three hours each day gluing thousands of individual goat hairs to Legeno's face, arms, and legs. "We dyed white goat hair black to make it look more authentic," Dudman says. "The result is a realistic-looking werewolf, better than any computer could create."

### MINI ME

When a cursed opal necklace hexes Hogwarts student Katie Bell, she's flung into the air like a rag doll. But that's actually a lifelike mannequin—not a real girl—flying over the set. "It was freaky to see this fake Katie lying around," says Rupert Grint, who plays Ron. "It looked so much like her." The only difference? The mannequin is just a little smaller than the actress. That way, Katie looks even tinier in the arms of extra-large Hagrid, who comes to her rescue by carrying her back to the castle.

LUNA LOVEGOOD AND HARRY ARE OFF TO PROFESSOR SLUGHORN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.



## HP around the world

A traveling *HP* museum exhibit—showcasing costumes and props from the films—opened this spring. The exhibit will travel throughout the United States for five years, so chances are good that it will come to a city near you.

For about \$1,100 a night, you can stay in the hotel room where J.K. Rowling finished writing *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the last book in the series. Room 552 in the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland, contains a statue signed by the author that says, "JK Rowling finished writing *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* in this room (552) on 11th Jan 2007."

Until they were stopped, a company in China illegally published fake *HP* sequels, with titles such as *Harry Potter and*



The last book of the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, will be split into two movies. Part one is scheduled for release in November 2010; part two is scheduled for July 2011.



RON PREPARES FOR HIS QUIDDITCH TRYOUT AS GRYFFINDOR KEEPER.

## SNEAKY ATTACK

The scary Sectumsempra spell Harry casts on Draco Malfoy inflicts gashes on Malfoy's chest. But Tom Felton, who plays Malfoy, didn't lose any blood in this gory scene. Instead, the movie crew taped long, skinny tubes to Felton's body that led off-camera and were filled with fake blood. (The tubing was later removed using a computer.) With the flick of a switch, the blood was pumped out of the tubes, soaking Felton's clothes. "Things got so messy, one day I had to change costumes at least seven times," Felton says.



YOUNG TOM RIDDLE MEETS DUMBLEDORE AT WOOL'S ORPHANAGE.

DUMBLEDORE CASTS A SPELL TO SAVE HARRY AFTER INFERI—LIVING CORPSES—GRAB HIM UNDER A LAKE.



Tell the world what you think about the *Harry Potter* book series on DogEared, NGK's book blog! [kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/dogeared](http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/dogeared)

## RING OF FIRE

As Death Eaters descend on the Weasleys' Burrow, the dwelling appears to catch on fire. But no homes were harmed to film this scene—rather, the crew constructed a flammable ring around the Burrow set. Surrounded by 20-foot flames, the Burrow appears to be engulfed in the fire, when actually it was completely untouched. "They lit the ring, and the flames jumped so high!" says Bonnie Wright, who plays Ginny Weasley. "It really did look like the house was on fire, even though it wasn't."

## ACTOR PROFILES

### TOM FELTON (DRACO MALFOY)

AGE: 21

CLASS HE'D TAKE AT HOGWARTS: Potions

FAVORITE FOOD: Chocolate ice cream

WHOSE MEMORIES HE'D EXPLORE IN A PENSIVE: Beatle Paul McCartney's—"I'd watch him write his most famous songs."

DREAM VACATION SPOT: Turtle Island in Fiji

THE "UNBREAKABLE VOW" HE LIVES BY: Don't forget to feed the dog.



### BONNIE WRIGHT (GINNY WEASLEY)

AGE: 18

IDEAL PLACE TO APPARET: Any island in the Caribbean

FAVORITE FOOD: Salad

THE "UNBREAKABLE VOW" SHE LIVES BY: Always be a loyal friend.

DREAM VACATION SPOT: Africa  
WHOSE MEMORIES SHE'D EXPLORE IN A PENSIVE: Her parents; to unearth secrets from their childhoods



In the film, King's Cross Station in London, England, there is a sign marking Platform 9 3/4, the fictional platform for the Hogwarts Express train. Harry and the gang take the Golden Turtle.



# Animal Talk

## 7 surprising ways animals and humans communicate

BY ALINE ALEXANDER NEWMAN

Can you speak monkey? How about hippopotamus or squirrel? Talking to animals is not just for Dr. Dolittle. In fact most people can learn to do it. Reading animals' body language is one way. Another trick is to teach animals humanspeak—in the form of words, symbols, sounds, or gestures. It's generally far easier to get animals to understand what we're telling them than it is to get them to say things to us. But sometimes, such a close bond develops that an actual two-way conversation takes place. Keep reading for true stories about chatting with animals.

1

### Fish Fry

Josephine the bottlenose dolphin (left) likes her fish frozen. Taught to press a paddle whenever she hears a certain sound, she earns 25 fishy treats in a row. But one day something happens. Josephine ignores 25 straight *dings*. She doesn't jump into the air or flap her tail. She just stubbornly refuses to participate. "I didn't know what was wrong," says Ronald J. Schusterman, a marine biologist at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Finally, he asks a

student to check the fish machine. It's working fine, but...ewww! The fish it is dispensing are sunbaked and about as appetizing as warm ice cream.

Josephine watches as the student replaces the warm fish with frozen. Schusterman hits the sound button, and she zooms right over and presses the paddle.

"It takes a very bright animal to figure out how to signal the experimenter that something is wrong," Schusterman says.



Boring. That's what most kids think when somebody asks them the same question over and over. Apparently, Alex the African gray parrot (right) agrees.

Behavioral psychologist Irene Pepperberg, of Brandeis and Harvard universities, presents a tray of different-colored blocks. Two are green, three blue, and six red. "What color three?" she asks, expecting Alex to say "blue."

But Alex has been there, done that. He seems to want Pepperberg to ask a different question—one that requires a brand-new answer. So he deliberately gives a wrong answer. "Five," says the parrot, stating a number instead of a color.

Surprised that Alex gives the wrong answer, the psychologist asks again, "What color three?"

"Five," repeats Alex. He keeps giving that wrong answer until Pepperberg grows frustrated.

"OK, smarty-pants," she finally blurts. "What color five?"

This is it—the question he's been waiting for.

"None," squawks the brainy bird.

C'MON,  
GIVE ME  
SOMETHING  
HARDER!



Suppose you could tell a gorilla what to do. Carol Trimmer, of Dublin, Ohio, can boss around a handsome silverback named Mac. But it takes lots of time and effort to build their relationship. Since 2004, Trimmer has averaged three hour-long visits to the Columbus Zoo each week.

While there, she entertains the lowland gorillas Mumbah (right) and Mac by blowing bubbles, playing with puppets, or showing them pictures in books. Plus, she talks constantly, using the same high-pitched, sing-song manner of speaking that people use with babies. Mac now recognizes her voice.

When Trimmer packs up her bag of tricks to leave, she calls, "Come walk me out." Even if he's sitting on the far side of his enclosure, Mac rises and ambles toward her. She beckons with one hand, and he follows her on his side of the fence—seeing his guest to the "door" like a proper primate.

NEXT WEEK  
CAN WE  
READ ABOUT  
KING KONG?





4

## Panic Attack

I USED TO BE  
A WILD CHILD,  
BUT NOW  
I'M A MELLOW  
FELLOW!

Horses talk with their bodies. Knowing that helps Dennis Wright, a horse communicator from Arlington, Washington, calm a wild-eyed, rampaging thoroughbred.

On entering the arena, Wright expects the horse to charge. When it does, he throws up his arms to mimic a rearing stallion and yells. Spooked, the thoroughbred thunders away, and Wright moves into his spot. This makes Wright the alpha horse, or leader.

As the panicked horse circles, Wright doesn't chase or lasso him. Instead, he repeatedly steps in front of him, forcing the horse to change direction. That wins respect. Last, Wright raises one hand and turns his back, showing trust.

"That horse isn't crazy," says Wright. "He's afraid, and lonely for his herd." By acting the way horses do with each other, Wright makes him feel secure. Twenty minutes after their first meeting, the thoroughbred approaches Wright, and man and horse walk together, as friends.

5

NOTHING  
SCARES  
ME!



## In Touch

An alert dog "hears" everything we say, even when our message is unspoken. At the age of 13, radio pet show host Harrison Forbes had a mysterious problem

with his American Staffordshire terrier, PJ. Whenever Forbes's mom walked the dog, PJ would pick a fight with a neighbor's Rottweiler. But if Forbes walked PJ along the same route, the two dogs would sniff and play. Forbes never knew why, until he was an adult.

He had a long talk with his mom and discovered she was terrified of Rottweilers. Weighing about 100 pounds, with large heads and powerful muscles, Rottweilers can look scary. Without even knowing it, his mother tensed every time she met one. PJ picked up on that fear. "A leash is like an electric power cord," says Forbes. "Your feelings, whether of confidence or anxiety, travel straight to the dog."

So remember: If your dog misbehaves, maybe changing your own behavior could help.



NOBODY  
FORGETS  
MY FRIENDS  
IF I HAVE  
ANYTHING TO  
SAY ABOUT IT!

6

## Timely Reminder

Every night, Panbanisha the bonobo (below) and the other bonobos living at the Language Research Center in Atlanta, Georgia, watch a DVD or listen to someone read from *Harry Potter*. Program director and scientist Bill Fields hands out blankets and glasses of milk. The apes smooch their blankets into nests on the floor and curl up inside. Then Fields turns off the light.

On Friday, Mari the orangutan sleeps over. Mari prefers sleeping outside, so Fields lets her out early and forgets about her later, when he hands out milk and blankets. But it can get chilly at night, and Panbanisha is concerned for her friend. Grabbing a large, laminated paper chart covered with symbols, she points to the signs for blanket, milk, and Mari.

"Oh, I forgot," Fields exclaims.

"Yes," Panbanisha agrees. She actually utters that word out loud!



PANBANISHA



MARI



## Open Sesame!

Kids wanting to go out to play simply ask their parents for permission. But of course Shanthi (right), the young zoo elephant, can't talk. And she's locked in a cage with bars that reach to the roof. What can she do?

Behavioral biologist Karen Pryor, of Watertown, Massachusetts, finds out when she tries to train the elephant. Shanthi cooperates just long enough to charm her way into Pryor's heart. Then she drops the sweet potato Pryor gives her and pokes her trunk out through the side of her enclosure.

"She keeps looking back and forth, from me to where her trunk is," says the biologist.

Unsure what she wants, Pryor and a zookeeper follow the elephant's gaze—and see that her trunk is gripping the fist-size padlock that holds her in.

"Her message is clear," says Pryor. They unlock the door, and the playful pachyderm spreads her ears and bounds out into the yard.

WHO'S UP FOR A GAME OF HIDE-AND-SEEK?



# Lifestyles of the

## OUTRAGEOUS WAYS TO PAMPER YOUR PET

BY SARAH WASSNER FLYNN

**S**howing love for your pet doesn't cost a thing. Still, pet owners last year spent more than 40 billion dollars on their pets—including about \$250 a year just on food and treats for each cat and dog. "We like to reward our pets for always being there for us," says Bob Vetere of the American Pet Products Association. NG KIDS takes a look at some very posh pets.

**POSH.** Spoiling your pet doesn't have to sap your savings. Instead, spend time—not money. Hugs, kisses, belly rubs, and baths are free for you but worth millions to your pet.



**DIAMONDS ARE A Cuddled KITTY'S BEST FRIEND.**

### ◀ GETTIN' WIGGY

When Romeo the Yorkshire terrier wants to step out in style, he slips on a hot-pink wig. Lenny the Cavalier King Charles spaniel dons dreadlocks when he cruises the park. The price of the \$40 hairpieces may cause some people to, uh, wig out. "But some owners spare no expense to keep their pets posh," says Ruth Regina, founder of the doggie-wig company Wiggles. "The dogs and the owners love how much attention they get when they wear the wigs."

### DREAM DECOR

Forget curling up on ratty blankets—Tigger the tabby takes catnaps on a fancy four-poster bed that's just his size. Honey the Bengal kitty keeps her clothes in a custom-built dresser fit for a princess. The fabulous felines are living in luxury with the \$600 hand-carved furniture set. "It's just like actual furniture, only pet-size," says Melissa Pearcy, owner of Not So Shabby Pets. One difference? "The bed's probably more comfy than most beds for people!"

**TIGGER SNOOZES IN STYLE.**

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# RICH and FURRY



THIS DAMPEDED POOCH DOESN'T MIND BEING STALKED BY THE *PAIN-PARAZZL*.



DOGS PADDLE ALL THEY WANT IN THE BONE-SHAPED POOL AT PARADISE 4 PAWS.

## ▼ HOLY "MUTT-RIMONY"

Flowers: \$1,000. Satin bridal gown: \$500. "Pup-cakes": \$100. Watching two dogs get "married" at a fancy wedding? Priceless. At least that's what some owners think when they cough up major cash for a pet wedding. "It's a way to honor the puppy love and have fun," says pet party planner Alma Rose Middleton, who has "married" dogs such as Boo Boo and Mimi after they "fell in love" at a birthday party. The cost of a to-drool-for wedding? Up to \$8,000!

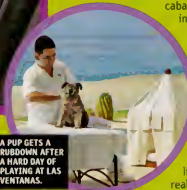


JAKE AND JILL MAKE A LOVE CONNECTION.

## ▼ HOTEL FOR DOGS

Heading on vacation but just can't part with your pet? Don't worry—many hotels offer special services for furry guests. Las Ventanas al Paraíso resort in Los Cabos,

Mexico, offers pooch-only pool cabanas so dogs can relax in shady comfort. The Little Nell in Aspen, Colorado, gives each dog a personalized ID tag and spring water. The James Chicago Hotel in Illinois brings up bones and sweet treats from the kitchen. Sounds like these hotels are really going to the dogs!



A PUP GETS A RUBDOWN AFTER A HARD DAY OF PLAYING AT LAS VENTANAS.

## ▼ THE SUITE LIFE

A regular kennel just won't do for pets like Chloe the Mi-Ki dog. When her owners go out of town, they put her up at Paradise 4 Paws outside of Chicago, Illinois, one of many pet hotels opening around the country. There, Chloe can watch *Soccer Dog: The Movie* on a flat-screen TV, or check out the scene at the bone-shaped splashing pool. "She's just as spoiled there as she is at home," says owner Renee Miaszkowski. At the Barkley Pet Hotel in Orange Village, Ohio, guests ride in a stretch "cat-illac" limousine and indulge in "paw-dicures."

# Fun Stuff

games, laughs, and lots to do!



## Fun Park

Wacky stuff is going on in this amusement park. Find and circle at least ten things that are wrong in this scene.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 31

# What in the World?

Play interactive "What in the World?" and other games online.  
[kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)



## NATURAL WONDERS

These images show some of the world's most famous natural sights. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 31



RANDG OYANNC



NZMAAO NRIA  
SERFOT



TUMON STEEREV



ARGINAA LASFL



UMNOT TS.  
ELHESN



ATEGR ERARBIR  
FERE



AAHSAR



ETESRGENI  
LAPIN



UUULR



# Memory Book

Create a FUN COLLAGE  
about a FAVORITE  
SUMMER memory.

1

COOL  
LETTERS

GIVE YOUR  
MEMORY BOOK  
A TITLE WITH  
STICK-ON  
LETTERS.

2

AWESOME  
PATTERNS

USE SCRAP-  
BOOKING PAPER  
TO CREATE A FUN  
BACKGROUND.

3

CUT AND  
PASTE

CUT PICTURES  
OUT OF MAGAZINES  
THAT RELATE TO  
YOUR STORY.

## CAMPING TRIP 2009

This summer's camping trip was the best!

It was so funny how the tent fell on Dad's head  
ten times before he finally got it to stand up.

Remember how we learned to make  
breakfast over the campfire?

Then we hiked to an  
amazing waterfall.

On the way,  
we thought we  
heard a bear in the  
woods.

Luckily it was just a  
cute fawn with its mom.

WOW!

cute



## TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED

- **WRITE ABOUT A FAVORITE MEMORY** such as a vacation, family picnic, hiking trip, birthday party, or holiday. Hand-write neatly or use a computer. Use big letters and different colors.
- **GATHER MEMORABILIA** related to the event, such as photos, postcards, foreign money, or ticket stubs.
- **PICK OUT A SCRAPBOOK** or photo album.
- **USE SCRAPBOOK INSERT PAPER** or construction paper as the base of the

- collage. Make sure the paper fits the size of the book. (Or you can make a collage on a large piece of poster board.)
- **ARRANGE EVERYTHING** exactly where you want it before gluing the pieces down.
- **PLACE YOUR COLLAGE** in the front of your memory book. Add a new collage or two every year.

**ALSO TRY THE OTHER FUN IDEAS ON THESE PAGES.**

Ask for a parent's permission to use family photos before you get started.

8

**GO WILD!**

INCLUDE NATURAL ITEMS SUCH AS DRIED FLOWERS, A FEATHER, OR SMALL SHELLS.

7

**GET CREATIVE**

MAKE PICTURES OUT OF TISSUE PAPER AND CONSTRUCTION PAPER.

6

**TAKE NOTE**

WANT TO INCLUDE A SPECIAL NOTE OR POSTCARD? GLUE ON AN ENVELOPE AND TUCK YOUR NOTE INSIDE.

5

**FUN IT UP!**

DECORATE WITH COOL STICKERS.

4

**PICTURE PERFECT**

INCLUDE PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR FAMILY AND/OR PETS.



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# Back Talk

Fan-tastic!

What do YOU think this dog is thinking?

1. Fill in the thought balloon.
2. Cut out the entire picture (or make a photocopy of it).
3. Mail it along with your name, address, phone number, and date of birth to NG KIDS, Back Talk, P.O. Box 96000, WASHINGTON, DC 20090-6000. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.



## From the March Issue

Oh, man! I got it up my nose.

Alleyna Brooke G., 14  
Palmyra, Virginia

That was great! What's for dessert?

Jacob R., 10  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Got milk?

Ryan P., 9  
Great Falls, Virginia

Finally, a chocolate-flavored facial.

Delaney M., 12  
McMurray, Pennsylvania

I hope you pay us well for this.

Erin D., 8  
Alexandria, Virginia

Who's up for seconds?

Cypress T., 10  
Wilmington, North Carolina

Has anyone seen my fork?

Regan M., 9  
Minster, Ohio

Will this help with my complexion?

Michael R., 12  
Windham, New York

# Art Zone

## COOL CARTOONS

Move over, SpongeBob! There are some new 'toons in town. These characters were created by NG KIDS readers.



▲ **Queen Snooty**  
Kelsie K., 13  
Midwest City,  
Oklahoma



▲ **SuperStar**  
Jaime M., 12  
Little River, South Carolina



▲ **Goopy Man**  
Ryan D., 10  
Pittsburgh,  
Pennsylvania



▲ **Mr. Hippo**  
in **Happy Land**  
Nathaniel B., 14  
Spokane, Washington

## Answers

"What in the World?" (page 27)  
Top row: Grand Canyon (United States), Amazon rain forest (South America), Mount Everest (Nepal) and Caradoc (New Zealand)  
Middle row: Niagara Falls (U.S./Canada), Niagara St. Helens (U.S.)  
Bottom row: Sydney Opera House (Australia), Serengeti Plains (Tanzania) and Kenya (also called Ayers Rock, Australia).



"Fun Park" (page 26)

## Draw your favorite dinosaur.

Send your original drawing to  
NG KIDS—Dinosaur Art Zone  
P.O. Box 98002  
Washington, DC 20090-8002

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work, and the name of your parent or guardian. If your drawing is selected, your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights therein are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG Kids.

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